

What is claimed is:

1. A multidirectional control switch comprising:
 - a disc-shaped operating member;
 - a first switch contact for outputting a first signal continuously varying as a top surface of the operating member undergoes a sliding press along a locus in arc form; and
 - a second switch contact for outputting a second signal in accordance with a press.
2. The multidirectional control switch of claim 1, wherein the first switch contact includes:
 - a ring-shaped first conductive layer; and
 - a first resistive layer facing the first conductive layer.
3. The multidirectional control switch of claim 2, wherein the second switch contact includes:
 - a second conductive layer provided around the first conductive layer, the second conductive layer being concentric with the first conductive layer and insulated from the first conductive layer; and
 - a second resistive layer provided around the first resistive layer, the second resistive layer being concentric with the first resistive layer and facing the second conductive layer.
4. The multidirectional control switch of claim 3, wherein the first resistive layer and the second resistive layer are integrally formed.
5. The multidirectional control switch of claim 1, further comprising:

a third switch contact for outputting a third signal as the operating member is pressed by force greater than force acting on the second switch contact.

6. The multidirectional control switch of claim 3, further comprising:

a third switch contact for outputting a third signal as the operating member is pressed by force greater than force acting on the second switch contact, the third switch contact including:

a third conductive layer provided around the second conductive layer, the third conductive layer being concentric with the second conductive layer and insulated from the second conductive layer; and

a third resistive layer provided around the second resistive layer, the third resistive layer being concentric with the second resistive layer and facing the third conductive layer.

7. The multidirectional control switch of claim 1, wherein the operating member includes, at a bottom surface thereof, a first projection for pressing the first switch contact.

8. The multidirectional control switch of claim 7, wherein the first projection is ring-shaped.

9. The multidirectional control switch of claim 1, wherein the operating member includes, at a bottom surface thereof, a second projection for pressing the second switch contact.

10. The multidirectional control switch of claim 5, wherein the operating

member includes, at a bottom surface thereof, a third projection for pressing the third switch contact.

11. The multidirectional control switch of claim 1, wherein the operating member includes one of a recessed part and a projected part extending outward from a center of a top surface of the operating member.

12. The multidirectional control switch of claim 1, further comprising:

a push button disposed in a center of the operating member, the push button being vertically movable; and

a fourth switch contact for outputting a fourth signal as the push button is pressed.

13. A multidirectional input device comprising:

a multidirectional control switch including:

a disc-shaped operating member;

a first switch contact for outputting a first signal continuously varying as a top surface of the operating member undergoes a sliding press along a locus in arc form; and

a second switch contact for outputting a second signal in accordance with a press;

a display unit; and

a controller, connected to the multidirectional control switch and the display unit, for controlling display on the display unit upon detection of the first signal and the second signal of the multidirectional control switch.

14. The multidirectional input device of claim 13, wherein the controller

stops the detection of the second signal while detecting the first signal.